

everything as being for the worst" would apply.

Does it not therefore savor of sacrilege to call the Savior of the world a pessimist? A name applied to an ordinary mortal whose mentality is likely effected by poor digestion or a torpid liver.

Morrill, Kans.

ARE BIBLICAL STORIES LITERALLY TRUE?

S. B. GRISSO.

The above is the heading of a recent discussion by the Rev. Charles W. Pearson, a Chicago divine and president of the North Western University of the M. E. church. In an issue of the Toledo Daily News of Jan. 22, the above named professor comes out boldly and declares he believes such stories as Adam and Eve, Elisha and Elijah, and the fiery furnace to be myths. Along beside it we give the language of another would be divine the Rev. W. T. Purcell of Chicago, who has also risen above the average intelligence and faith of saintly men and women, the apostles not excepted, and declares Professor Pearson to be a hero and "as such he will be recognized a hundred years from now when the men and doctrines he is now opposing may be forgotten. Dr. Pearson had outgrown these beliefs, and he was brave enough and manly enough to make public his views. He is no hypocrite." And in his reply to those who have bitterly denounced him he says, "In conclusion I will say that I have seen a good deal of denunciations but no statement from any quarter of what the Methodist doctrine of inspiration is. There has been absolutely no assertion on the part of any of my critics that they themselves believe the Bible wholly free from myth and legend. I ask you, brethren, do you dare to say before God and man that you believe all the stories about Adam and Eve, Elijah and Elisha, are literally true? Who is bold enough to avow it plainly? If you dare not say you believe those legends why do you denounce me for saying I disbelieve them?"

The above assertions of the Dr. have called forth some bitter denunciations and some well said. So strongly are the denunciations that the board is already taking steps to vacate his position. It is however the same old theory approached many years ago but the old Book still stands and ready to stand the attack of any enemy that dares raise her hand to oppose it. It was no less than the Dr. Lyman Abbott who several years ago startled many of the clergy in his city to question his orthodoxy by calling the book of Jonah the "Picwick Papers of the Bible." Voltaire, I believe it was who said, one hundred years ago and over, "fifty years hence and your Christianity will be a thing of the past." But it is still here, and entrenched in the hearts of the people stronger than ever.

This knifing of the word of God is the product of higher criticism. Who would

teach the inspired apostles and prophets the way of truth if it were possible? It is too, the product of too many of our educational instructors. Instead of teaching their pupils to believe God whether they can understand all or not, they cut out and endeavor to argue away the inspiration of the same. God spare our own beloved institution from such. To my mind if you deny the deliverance of the Hebrew children or of Jonah as being miraculous, you can on the ground deny the whole Bible. There is scarcely a book in the Bible but what has something miraculous in it. It was surely not harder for God to deliver the Hebrew children from the power of the fire than for God to make the fire; or was it harder for God to deliver Jonah from death in the whale's belly than to make the whale; or for the Savior to turn water into wine without the use of chemicals or grape juice?

Among the criticisms given in the paper which lies before me I will give a few. The first are just as much to the extreme as the Dr's. are rash and unfounded. Neither should befoul the lips of him who is an ambassador of God. Vengeance belongeth to God and not to man. The Rev. T. A. Hardin of Chicago says, "The Professor ought to be skinned and his hide placed on the fence and salted." Rev. R. E. Custer of Toledo, Ohio says, "The statement of Prof. Pearson will not be substantiated by the church and it is altogether probable that he may be tried for heresy, and if proof is found sufficient, he will be ousted from the church. While we admit that there is all kinds of literature in the Old Testament, poetry, figurative language, and that considerable is expressed in language hard to be understood, we do not admit of any such sweeping statements as were made by Prof. Pearson."

Rev. George B. Wiltsie of the same place, when interviewed said, "Men have been kicking against those things for centuries as mice might gnaw at the rock of Gibraltar, but the rock is still there. We haven't time to take up such questions as there is too much practical Christian work to be done in the world. There is no doubt however that the church will reject any such statements." But Dr. Parkhurst probably gives the best reply of any, unless it be the one just quoted, when he says, "It has been asserted that Shadrack, Meshack and Abednego were never cast into a fiery furnace for if they had been they would certainly have been burned to death. I believe the story of those coming out of the furnace unharmed. God works miracles in his own wonderful way. He may have changed the three people into asbestos. We all know that asbestos will not burn and we may account for other miracles just as easily."

Whether they were changed into asbestos or not, I do not know. But as for myself, I will believe God's word to mean just what it says, rather than believe some of our modern critics tho they be D. D's. or LL. D's. And as for myself I have only this to say, it is a

sad picture when men who are entrusted with the dealing out of the blessed word of God, that they will permit themselves to be led away from the one great mission—preaching the principles bearing directly on the plan of redemption and godly living. When men commence drifting it is no telling where they will land. We have always found it best to preach the essentials and leave the non-essentials alone. There is plenty to preach beside them.

SELFISHNESS

LEONA S. STOUT

Surely selfishness is clogging the wheels of church machinery to-day more than any thing else. As time rolls on this seems to become more and more prevalent. There can be nothing more destructive to the church, contrary to God's Word and opposite to Christ's example. When the church was first established at Jerusalem selfishness had no place. They were all of one mind and that was the mind of Christ infused into the soul by the Holy Ghost. We notice by reading their history their concern for their brethren was equal to that of self, for those that had not the needful things for the body, were provided for by those that had abundance. But ere long this great sin began to creep in and destroy that union Christ intended should exist between believers. Selfishness always destroys harmony in the church. Think of that selfish mother who desired that Christ would grant her sons to sit one on his right and the other on his left in his kingdom. Could we only possess enough of the spirit of Christ to obey his command in Rom. 12:10, In honor preferring one another. Instead, honor must be conferred upon self or special friends or I'm down and out. Self must have his or her mind and ideas carried out regardless of what effect it will have upon the church work.

In Acts 2:24, when there must be one chosen to fill Judas' place the apostles prayed God, "Shew whether of these two thou hast chosen." They did not rely upon their judgment but appealed to God to show them. How different now, instead of praying God to choose thru us, we have our minds fixed and do all in our power to influence others thereby robbing God of choosing thru them.

Selfishness loves ease in Zion and is a stranger to the command, go work in my vineyard today or go ask the lost one that has wandered far from the fold, tell them of Jesus and his love and power to save. The weak discouraged one that's almost ready to give up the battle. The fatherless and widows in their affliction. Selfishness seeks the praise of men forgetting that the one they pretend to serve has said woe when all men speak well of you. Luke 6:26 Conveying the idea if we conduct ourselves so as to gain the praise and applause of men we may be sure God is not well pleased with us for